

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ATTACHING
ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE TO DOCUMENT HAVING STRUCTURE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An electronic signature technology for attaching an
5 electronic signature to an electronic file containing a
document having a structure is provided, wherein a level of
electronic file equivalence, a level of document structure
equivalence and a level of document structure partial
equivalence can be set and evaluated. A target document is
10 analyzed to generate a representation having a structure.
Next, a signature is generated from each of structural
elements of the structure of the generated representation,
and the generated signatures (ciphers) are concatenated
into a single signature corresponding to the structure of
15 the generated representation. Also, the electronic file
having the generated electronic signature is verified to
find from the contents of the signatures, at least (1)
electronic file equivalence; (2) document structure
equivalence; and (3) a coincidence rate, depending on a
20 processing request.